

## PERFINS CLUE ON STOCK EXCHANGE FORGERY? By- Dave Hill.

In the April 1993 Bulletin, James Norris provided everyone with a copy of the Sloper Publicity Perfin from the machine in his possession. This perfin die was never used on stamps but what interested me was that it was a single die machine JS/SCo with a border of perforating pins which Sloper's used to produce a stamp-sized label on gummed paper for publicity purposes. The publicity label is perforated 15x14 and this size perforation was introduced on postage stamps in 1911.

My point is that there is one theory that the Stock Exchange Forgery of the 1/- green stamp (perf 14) of 1873 was printed in this way. That is, it was printed one stamp at a time and perforated at the same time, because the stamp is always centred in the same place. The makers of the forgery were never identified, although the Post Office Clerks who used it were. However, when the forgeries were discovered many years later, only one of these Clerks was still alive and very old.

There were many engravers about who with skill and practice could have produced the die but fewer engineers with the knowledge and equipment to produce the perforations around the stamps. They took the trouble to copy the perforations of the current stamp but did not think to get the "check letters" correct in the corners of the stamp. Perforator pins are fairly special; how would they know what size the holes for them should be?

It is now too long ago to discover who made the forgeries but I think it would have been better at the time to have looked into who had the means of producing the perforations than just concentrating on the printing.